

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 27 with the following replacement paragraph:

-- The measuring sensor according to the present invention has the advantage that the novel protective layer extremely effectively prevents a “contamination” of the electrodes of the measuring sensor by silicon and phosphorus compounds as well as other particulate and gaseous harmful components in the measured gas, and may be manufactured cost-effectively from a production technology point of view.

Because of its extreme porosity, the protective layer is ~~not~~ able to be applied in great layer thickness, for instance, greater than 250 µm, which increases its effectiveness against contaminants, without the functional properties of the sensor element being impaired. The added solid in the protective layer may be introduced, for instance, as oxides, carbonates, acetates or nitrates of Ca, Al, La, Mg, Li, Ti, Zr. the measuring sensor according to the present invention may be designed as a finger probe or as a planar probe. --.